



Salt River Vocational Rehabilitation Newsletter

SRVR Presents at

11th Annual American Indian Disability Summit

The 11th Annual American Indian Disability Summit was held in Phoenix on March 26. The Summit is held to facilitate training, outreach, and technical assistance for American Indians with disabilities residing in both urban and rural areas. Attendees had the opportunity to gain awareness of supports and services available, and empowered to improve their lifestyle by learning strategies to eliminate barriers.

The theme was "Gathering Native Voices to Embrace Vitality". Salt River was represented as an event co-sponsor. Salt River Vocational Rehabilitation Manager, Melanie Murray, was a panel presenter for Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Programs. The purpose of the panel was to provide valuable information regarding Vocational Rehabilitation Services specifically for the American Indian population residing on the reservations across Arizona. Salt River Vocational Rehabilitation is the newest program in the State of Arizona.

Highlights of the SRVR presentation included:

- ✓ Program Eligibility
- ✓ Potential Services
- ✓ Nearly 200 individuals have been served by SRVR
- ✓ Over 40 have been successfully rehabilitated

Located in

Human Resources
(Two Waters-Building B)
10,005 E. Osborn Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85256

SRVR MAIN # 480-362-2650

Fax# 480-362-5587

Melanie Murray, VR Manager
Paula Smith, VR Counselor
Jennifer Curtis, VR Counselor

**ORIENTATIONS
EVERY OTHER
TUESDAY at
10am
DATES ON
page 2** →

NEWS and NOTES FROM SRVR...

- ◆ SRVR Counselors Continuing Education Program through PET-AIR at San Diego State University (Organizational Development and Leadership for the Next Decade)
- ◆ SRVR Co-sponsored TVR Circle Training in Albuquerque for VR Staff from 85 different tribal communities
- ◆ SRHS and SRVR Continue Partnership to Support Youth with Disabilities and Employment, Work Readiness Basics with Career Services Network
- ◆ SRVR Continues Partnership with Mesa Public Schools and the Native American Education Program



2015 Orientation Dates

10 AM in TWO WATERS "B105"

April 14	April 28
May 12	May 26
June 9	June 23
July 14	July 28
August 11	August 25
September 8	September 22
October 13	October 27
November 10	November 24
December 8	December 22

Quarterly S.R.V.R. Statistics

Eligible Consumers	37
Active Employment	9
Employed 90 days (Rehabilitated)	5
Participated in Training	2
Participated in Work Experience within Community	2

Penrose Fulwilder Sr.

Artist/Owner—Akimel D'zign

SRVR Success

"We all like to express ourselves in many ways, why not through art? To be able to make an honest living".

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program helped me get back into the work area where I was familiar. This time I'm able to make decisions on the output on my own art and share it on so many levels. In the future I would like to help young artist, to be a guide or mentor them; maybe to provide an outlet in an area where they can make a living from their talents.

With the help of Vocational Rehabilitation they provided a very professional service. They helped me with so much research on many levels. "Akimel D'zign a 100% Native owned Silkscreen Company", which they had helped assist me with, was created along with the help of one of my sons. I could see many people being able to use this service for many types of printing; t-shirts, jackets, bags, posters, etc. Being an graphic designer prior, I could see where it could be promising.

In the last decade I had been an artist consultant for major corporations: Sheraton, Marriott, Tribal Enterprises or Community schools. Whether I was consulting in cultural matters or artistic projects or teaching art classes to K-6th grade in Gila River Indian Community. Art has been one

of my natural talents. I also help out in the last decade or so as a Coordinator for SRP-MIC Unity Run that is held annually. I held many positions in my younger years; construction, landscaping, automotive refinishing, graphic artist for a silkscreen company, education specialist and freelance artist.

As time went on my health became affected from a prior injury. More and more unmanageable from physical therapy to surgical procedures. Not until 2014, when I heard of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Thinking I would just get a desk job to make ends meet. I was thrilled on all their services which led me on to a bigger picture. My inspiration to use the love I had for art and my natural ability to create my art into a Service for local community members as well as Tribal departments.

Someday I would like to give back to the people share the talent that I'm blessed with, but to awaken those that are talented too. So they too can pursue their dreams no matter their limitations.

There's hope when you feel that hope is slipping away. I'm very thankful Vocational Rehabilitation has given me a second chance.

I chose Akimel (river) for the name of my company because it reflects life, water a vital necessity to survive in our harsh desert in Arizona.



Akimel D'Zign

2015 E. 5th Street

Tempe, AZ 85281

480-773-6817